

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
PRS-01 DOE-11 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00 INRE-00
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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009522

E.O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, CCD, UK

SUBJECT: UN SSOD: BRITISH VIEWS

REF: LONDON 00552

1. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND DESIRE OF BRITISH TO BE PREPARED
TO DEAL WITH NON-ALIGNED EFFORT TO REPLACE CCD, WE DO
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NOT BELIEVE THAT INTRODUCTION OF COUNTER-PROPOSAL AT SSOD
IS NECESSARILY MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF HANDLING PROBLEM.
IN FIRST PLACE, IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US THAT THERE IS BROAD
CONSENSUS FOR SWEEPING CHANGES IN CURRENT FORUM. US
SOUNDINGS IN NEW YORK INDICATE THAT NON-ALIGNED HAVE NOT
COME TO ANY CONCLUSIONS ON THIS QUESTION. FINAL
VERDICT ON CCD'S EFFECTIVENESS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE

RENDERED UNTIL NEARER BEGINNING OF SSOD. IF CCD PRODUCES RESPECTABLE COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAMS AND PROSPECTS ARE GOOD THAT IT WILL SOON BE ENGAGED IN ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON PRIORITY ARMS CONTROL ISSUES, PRESSURES FOR RADICAL CHANGE WILL BE MUTED.

2. EVEN IF NON-ALIGNED APPEAR READY TO PRESS STRONGLY FOR REPLACEMENT OF CCD, HOWEVER, WE THINK IT PREMATURE TO CONCLUDE THAT WESTERN GROUP SHOULD PUT A COMPETING PROPOSAL ON THE TABLE FROM THE OUTSET. WE

WOULD PREFER TO SEE WHAT NON-ALIGNED HAVE IN MIND BEFORE WE DECIDE ON WHAT POINTS WE WOULD WISH TO GIVE.

3. QUESTION OF CO-CHAIRMANSHIP IS PARTICULARLY DELICATE. IN FIRST PLACE WE SEE NO SIGNS THAT SOVIETS HAVE YET CONCLUDED THAT A CHANGE TO THIS INSTITUTION, TO WHICH THEY CONTINUE TO ATTACH IMPORTANCE, IS INEVITABLE. WHILE WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE ARE FLEXIBLE ON ISSUE, THEY CERTAINLY DO NOT EXPECT THAT WE WILL ADVOCATE ABOLISHMENT OF CO-CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC EVIDENCE THAT IT HAS BECOME A MAJOR LIABILITY AND WITHOUT ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH THEM. WE WANT TO AVOID AN IMBROGLIO WITH THEM ON THIS ISSUE IN VIEW OF OUR OTHER, MORE VITAL BILATERAL INTERESTS.

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4. ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE CO-CHAIRMAN PROBLEM WHICH, WHILE NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN REFTTEL, HAS FIGURED IN THINKING OF THOSE WHO ADVOCATE A NEW CHAIRMANSHIP ARRANGEMENT IS THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR FRENCH TO TAKE THEIR SEAT IN CCD. WE BELIEVE THAT CO-CHAIRMANSHIP IS ONLY ONE AMONG MANY FACTORS AFFECTING FRENCH DECISION ON PARTICIPATION. WHEN THEY ARE READY TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY MOVING TOWARD PARTICIPATION WE BELIEVE THEY WILL LET US KNOW, INCLUDING WHETHER ENDING THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP IS THE KEY. SO FAR THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO.

5. WITH REGARD TO PRC MEMBERSHIP IN A NEW MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATING BODY THE CHINESE HAVE EXHIBITED NO INTEREST WHATSOEVER IN PARTICIPATING IN LIMITED MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON REALISTIC ARMS CONTROL MEASURES. PUTTING THEM IN THE SPOTLIGHT BY RESERVING A PLACE FOR THEM IN A NEW BODY WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE WAY TO BRING THEM ALONG IS BY QUIET PERSUASION, NOT BY ATTEMPTING TO FORCE THEM TO TAKE A STAND PUBLICLY.

6. IN SUM, WHILE WE THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO BEGIN CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN WESTERN CIRCLES FOR POSSIBILITY OF NON-ALIGNED MOVE TO REPLACE CCD, WE THINK IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO CREATE MOMENTUM TOWARD A WESTERN COUNTER-PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME WHEN WE STILL HAVE TWO PREPCOMS AHEAD OF US AND AMPLE TIME TO FIND OUT WHAT, IF ANYTHING, THE NON-ALIGNED REALLY HAVE IN MIND.

7. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON ABOVE IN CONVEYING OUR INFORMAL REACTIONS TO MALLABY OR OTHER APPROPRIATE FCO OFFICIALS AND STATE THAT WE WOULD PREFER THAT BRITISH NOT RAISE THEIR PROPOSAL WITH THE NINE. US EXPERTS
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WILL BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS IT WITH MALLABY BEFORE JANUARY 17 NATO MEETING ON SSOD.

CHRISTOPHER

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